

Application No.: 10/663,486

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-437 CPCPCPCPCPCPCP I CON V

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising

an intervertebral spacer device having first and second baseplates mounted to one another such that the first and second baseplates are articulatable relative to one another, the first baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the bottom surface of the first baseplate having a perimetrical region including a plurality of notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the second baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the top surface of the second baseplate having a perimetrical region including a plurality of notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the perimetrical regions of the baseplates separated by a spacing having a first width, wherein the recesses of the perimetrical regions of the first and second baseplates include walls that define an access volume separated by a spacing having a second width greater than the first width; and

a manipulation tool having a distal shaft having a relevant dimension greater than the first width, but less than the greater second width, such that when the distal shaft is accommodated between the perimetrical regions of the baseplates only in the access volume, movement of the intervertebral spacer device relative to the distal shaft of the manipulation tool is limited by interference between the distal shaft and the walls of at least one of the recesses, such that the intervertebral spacer device is manipulatable using the manipulation tool.

2. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein the perimetrical regions have a plurality of opposing recess pairs.

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3. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 1, wherein each access volume is aligned with a desired surgical approach direction.

4. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 3, wherein at least one of the surgical approach directions is an anterior approach direction.

5. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 4, wherein the perimetrical regions have three opposing recess pairs, each defining first, second, and third access volumes, respectively, each being aligned with an anterior approach direction, a left antero-lateral approach direction, and a right antero-lateral approach direction, respectively.

6. (currently amended) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising

an intervertebral spacer device having first and second baseplates mounted to one another such that the first and second baseplates are articulatable relative to one another, the first baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the bottom surface of the first baseplate having a perimetrical region including a plurality of notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the second baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the top surface of the second baseplate having a perimetrical region including a plurality of notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the perimetrical regions of the baseplates separated by a spacing having a first width, wherein at least one recess of the first baseplate is opposed to a recess of the second baseplate such that the recesses ~~having~~have walls that define an access volume between the baseplates separated by a spacing having a second width greater than the first width; and

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a manipulation tool having a distal shaft having a relevant dimension greater than the first width, but less than the greater second width, such that when the distal shaft is accommodated between the perimetrical regions of the baseplates only in the access volume, movement of the intervertebral spacer device relative to the distal shaft of the manipulation tool is limited by interference between the distal shaft and the walls of at least one of the recesses, such that the intervertebral spacer device is manipulatable using the manipulation tool.

7. (canceled).

8. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 6, wherein each access volume is aligned with a desired surgical approach direction.

9. (original) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 8, wherein at least one of the surgical approach directions is an anterior approach direction.

10. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 9, wherein the at least one of the perimetrical regions has three recesses, each defining first, second, and third access volumes, respectively, each being aligned with an anterior approach direction, a left antero-lateral approach direction, and a right antero-lateral approach direction, respectively.

11. (previously presented) A spinal orthopedic device and tool set, comprising:

an intervertebral spacer device having first and second baseplates mounted to one another such that the first and second baseplates are articulatable relative to one another, the first

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baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the bottom surface of the first baseplate having a plurality of first notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the second baseplate having a top surface and an opposed bottom surface, the top surface of the second baseplate having a plurality of second notches, wherein each notch has a recess formed therein, the plurality of first and second recesses each having a circular wall and a base,

wherein at least one first recess of the first baseplate has a corresponding opposing second recess with that of the second baseplate; and

a manipulation tool having a distal shaft configured to engage one of the at least one first recess of the first baseplate and one of the at least one corresponding opposing second recess of the second baseplate along an axis perpendicular to an axis along a length of the baseplates, such that when the distal shaft of the manipulation tool is so engaged, movement of the first baseplate with the second baseplate is limited by interference between the distal shaft and at least one of the recesses.

12. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 11, wherein the perimetrical regions have a plurality of opposing recess pairs.

13. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 11, wherein each access volume is aligned with a desired surgical approach direction.

14. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 13, wherein at least one of the surgical approach directions is an anterior approach direction.

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15. (previously presented) The spinal orthopedic device and tool set of claim 14, wherein the perimetrical regions have three opposing recess pairs, each defining first, second, and third access volumes, respectively, each being aligned with an anterior approach direction, a left antero-lateral approach direction, and a right antero-lateral approach direction, respectively.